

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 13601 161011Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03
SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PRS-01 /063 W
-----050145 161154Z /46

R 161002Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7275
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13601

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, UG, UK
SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF BRITISH SUBJECT "MARK" ELIAS

REF: STATE 192017

1. SINCE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION FROM THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN KAMPALA, BRITISH HANDLING OF W/W CASES IN UGANDA HAS BEEN STRICTLY CATCH-AS-CATCH-CAN. UK IS NO LONGER REPRESENTED IN KAMPALA BY ANY PROTECTING POWER, NOR ARE THERE ANY UK-UGANDAN BILATERAL CONTACTS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. IN LONDON, W/W CASES RELATED TO UGANDA (INCLUDING ELIAS CASE) ARE HANDLED BY

THE EMERGENCY UNIT OF THE FCO CONSULAR DEPARTMENT. IN THE FIELD, HMG MUST RELY ON ITS DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND THE GOOD OFFICES OF SUCH INTERNATIONAL BODIES AT THE UNHCR AND ICRC, THE LATTER BEING USED WITH CIRCUMSPECTION.

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2. CONSULAR DEPARTMENT EMERGEHCY UNIT HAS INFORMED US THAT ELIAS WAS LAST HEARD FROM ON MAY 13TH. A FEW DAYS LATER, HIS DISAPPEARANCE WAS SIGNALLED TO THE BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN KAMPALA BY TWO OF HIS EMPLOYEES. FURTHER ACTION WAS DELAYED BY CONFUSING ENCOUNTERED IN IDENTIFYING ELIAS; ALTHOUGH HE IS KNOWN AS "MARK" ELIAS, IT TOOK SOME TIME BEFORE FCO WAS ABLE TO

DETERMINE THAT HIS REAL NAME IS ALFRED LIONEL ELIAS. ON MAY 24, AND AGAIN ON JUNE 4, THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN KAMPAL MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE UGANDAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SEEKING NEWS OF ELIAS' WHEREABOUTS, BUT BOTH DEMARCHES WERE UNANSWERED. ACTION SINCE THAT DATE IS SUMMED UP IN PARA 3 OF KIGALI 984. CONSULAR DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY UNIT REMAINS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ELIAS' WIFE AND SISTER.

3. FCO APPRECIATES AMBASSADOR CRIGLER'S OFFER TO QUERY UGANDAN CHARGE IN KIGALI ON ELIAS, BUT SHARES CONCERN THAT INDICATION OF USG INTEREST IN ELIAS MAY BE MISINTERPRETED BY UGANDANS. ON REFLECTION, AND AFTER CONSULTING WITH ELIAS' SISTER, FCO WONDERS F SUCH AN APPROACH MIGHT BEST BE MADE ON AN UNOFFICIAL, PERSONAL BASIS, WITH AMBASSADOR CRIGLER ASKING AFTER THE WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS OF A GOOD FRIEND.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON13601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770294-1271
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770858/aaaabwup.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ddb759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 192017
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1590522
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISAPPEARANCE OF BRITISH SUBJECT \"MARK\" ELIAS
TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, UG, UK, (ELIAS, MARK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ddb759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009